

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

/147 W

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R 172053Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3621

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6842

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: PERON LIKELY TO WIN ON FIRST ROUND

1. SUMMARY: ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IS DRAGGING INTO FINAL WEEK BEFORE BALLOTS CAST ON SEP 23. MOST OBSERVERS ASSUME PERON WILL EASILY WIN ON FIRST ROUND, HENCE THERE IS LITTLE EXCITEMENT OR EVEN INTEREST IN ELECTIONS THEMSELVES. EMBASSY BELIEVES PERON WILL GET SOME 55 TO 60 PERCENT OF VOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. ISABLE DE PERON WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SECOND SWING THROUGH PROVINCES TODAY, BUT TOUR HAS BEEN CANCELLED. PERON EXPLAINED IN INTERVIEW SEP 14 THAT HE HAD SENT "LITTLE WOMAN" OUT ON FIRST SWING TO SEE HOW CAMPAIGN GOING IN INTERIOR. SHE FOUND IT GOING SO WELL THAT SECOND SWING DEEMED UNNECESSARY.

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3. IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT SECOND TRIP CANCELLED IN VIEW LUKE-WARM RECEPTION SHE ENCOUNTERED ON FIRST. ISABLE IS NOT OF MUCH HELP AS CANDIDATE; NEITHER, HOWEVER, IS SHE LIKELY TO HURT PERONS CHANCES.WHATEVER THEY THINK OF HER MOST VOTERS WHO FAVOR PERON WILL VOTE FOR HIM ANYWAY. THERE MAY BE CONSIDERABLY MORE BLANK BALLOTS THAN ON MAR 11, BUT SINCE MIN OF INTERIOR LLAMBI HAS CONFIRMED LAST MARCHS DECISION THAT BLANK BALLOTS WILL NOT COUNT AS PART OF TOTAL VOTE, THAT WILL NOT HURT PERONS PERCENTAGES.

4. AT THIS POINT HAVING BROUGHT A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF YOUTH AND LEFT WING BACK TO FOLD PERON HAS WITH HIM ALL THE PARTIES AND SECTORS WHICH SUPPORTED CAMPORA ON MAR 11, PLUS THE NEW SUPPORT OF INTRANSIGENTES, THE PRC AND PCA WHICH TOGETHER SCORED SOME 800 THOUSAND VOTES IN MAR. HE ALSO HAS SOME SMALLER PARTIES SUCH AS THE UNION POPULAR WHICH CAMPORA DID NOT HAVE WITH HIM. HENCE IT SEEMS VERY LIKELY THAT PERON WILL DO BETTER THAN CAMPORA AND WILL WIN ON FIRST ROUND. EMBASSY BELIEVES HE WILL GET SOME 55 TO 60 PERCENT OF THE VOTE, POSSIBLEY EVEN MORE.

5. UCR, WHICH IS WAGING A SOMEWHAT TOUGHER CAMPAIGN NOW THAN FOR MARCH ELECTIONS AND HAS MORE ATTRACTIVE AND VIGOROUS VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN THE PERSON OF FERNANDO DE LA ROA, SHOULD DO A LITTLE BETTER THAN IT DID IN MARCH. EVEN SO, IT NOT LIKELY TO GET MUCH MORE THAN 23 TO 28 PERCENT OF VOTE.

6. MANRIQUE, WHO HAS LOST SOME OF THE PARTIES THAT SUPPORTED HIM IN MARCH, MAY NOT DO AS WELL. EMBASSY BELIEVES HE LIKELY TO GET LESS THAN 15 PERCENT.

7. CORAL OF PST UNLIKELY TO GET MORE THAN A FEW PERCENT.

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